



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
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MARYLAND'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

As a nation of immigrants, America has a rich tradition of celebrating the contributions of those who wish to make a home here. But the Trump Administration's callous and repeated threats to conduct raids and separate immigrant families in cities across the country –including Baltimore – cuts against these core American values and needlessly injects fear in our most vulnerable communities. The Trump Administration's fear-mongering is unfounded and unacceptable. It is a crass, nativist impulse that breeds intolerance when what our country needs right now is hope, humanity and compassion.

In light of the Administration's ongoing threats to conduct Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids throughout the country, I would like to share some important information about the rights of every individual living in the United States.

We are a nation of laws. Under the U.S. Constitution, every person – regardless of immigration status – has several basic rights. If approached by ICE agents or by federal law enforcement officers, you can protect yourself by remaining calm and knowing your rights. The below information should not be construed as legal advice. For such advice, you should consult an immigration attorney.

- **You have the legal right to remain silent.** You can provide your name, but you do not have to answer any additional personal questions. If you wish to remain silent, say so to the officers or agents.
- **You do not have to show any identification papers or documents that display your country of origin.** You do not have to discuss your citizenship status or your immigration status. But if you have citizenship documents or immigration papers, you can show them to the officers or agents.

- If officers or agents attempt to search your home, your car or your belongings, **you have the legal right to say that you do not consent to the search.**
- **If agents or officers attempt to enter your home – without a valid search warrant signed by a judge – you do not have to open the door or let them in.**
  - A search warrant is different from an ICE deportation warrant. If the officers or agents only have a deportation warrant, they still cannot legally enter your home unless you agree to let them in.
  - If the officers or agents claim to have a valid search warrant, signed by a judge, you can ask them to slide the warrant under your door or hold it up to a window so that you can review it.
  - If the warrant is not signed by a judge, you can deny entry. If the warrant does not state your correct name and address, you can deny entry.
  - You do not need to open your door to speak to the officers or agents. You can talk to them through the door, while it is closed. You can also step outside of your home and close the door behind you.
- **You have right to say that you want to speak to a lawyer.** You can refuse to sign any paperwork or documents until you have spoken to a lawyer.
- **If you are not a U.S. citizen, you have the right to speak to your home country's embassy or consulate.**

If you have any additional questions or concerns, or if you have an immigration issue involving a federal agency, please call my office at (410) 832-8890 or contact us online at <https://sarbanes.house.gov/contact>.

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[CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

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